

FOBS

A lot has happened in three months and it has not all been sunshine. Tributes to Pat Rolph and Desmond Groves will be found elsewhere in this newsletter but we cannot leave it without mention. Desmond, the archetypal stalwart, bought the first roof tile when the FOBS was founded and Pat of course supported Terry throughout his founding and organising of the FOBS, accepting the disruption of her home for Committee meetings for many years.

However, the shows go on, so many have we fronted for... Barn Bande (going from strength to strength), The Rollin' Clones, A2 Opera, Betchworth Festival, Janie Harris School of Dancing and The New Foxtrot Serenaders. At Front of House it is noticeable how each function attracts a different type of audience and even a different run on bar drinks.

We now look forward to a lunch visit by a Rolls Royce group and, following the Oxted Players 'Alphabetical Order' we shall again front for the Barn Bande on 31st May. In June, Wickham's Wandering Old Tyme Stagers visit us, chaired by that vowelgagulatidinious Mr Kevin Gauntlett: beware!

Volunteers will still be in demand when the youngsters perform in August: Kenley Holiday Workshop's 'Carousel' from 14th - 16th and Young Oxted Players on the 24th.

The extent of our contribution became evident at the Annual General Meeting at the Barn Theatre on 15th April when our accounts showed that we donated nearly £7000 to the theatre in 2001 and nearly £9500 in 2002. A tidy sum. Our thanks go to all those who have helped to make this possible. I am afraid though, that it does not prevent us from raising subscriptions. Our President, who has manfully filled the gap of the post of Hon Treasurer, had at last regretfully concluded that we needed to increase subscriptions to £4 per person per year or £10 for three years. This was duly carried at the meeting. We now have a new Hon Treasurer, Mr Brian White, a long-term member of the FOBS, who has kindly agreed to relieve Terry of this task. Welcome Brian, and a very warm thank you to Terry Rolph.

It is pleasing to report that the combined Front of House Volunteer List is operating well, but we would welcome more of you.

Dave Watkins

A Grand Oldtime Music Hall

Wickham's Wandering Oldtime Stagers (aka WWOS) are an offshoot of West Wickham Operatic Society (also WWOS)

They have been touring their Oldtime Music Hall for the last 8 Years, raising thousands of pounds for charity. They have appeared in many theatres including The Regents Theatre Christchurch, The Churchill Theatre Bromley, The Ashcroft Theatre Croydon and The Whitstable Playhouse.

WWOS will be travelling to The Barn in June to present their much acclaimed show, raising money for the Barn 2000 appeal. Their chairman, Mr Kevin Gauntlett, promises "A comprehensive collection of consummate crime carefully contrived to captivate the connoisseur and confuse the castigator!" together with "A superior & sparkling series of salubrious scenas and scintillating solos subtly sequestered into a stylish and superlative Symposium!!" Should be a good do!

There will be only 2 performances, on Friday 13th & Saturday 14th June, Song sheets and plenty of audience participation are guaranteed and patrons are advised to book soon to avoid disappointment.

The Oxted Players

Having completed his performances as the villain in our very successful Pantomime in January, Chris Hephper prepared his team of Players for our entry in the Betchworth Festival The Lover by Harold Pinter. Steve Palmer and Marie Cousins (a very welcome newcomer to our Society) were in the leading roles with Guy Hudson with a brief appearance as the Milkman. Competition was stiff, and our play was one of three performed on that Friday night evening providing a highly entertaining evening and our entry was very much appreciated by the Adjudicator and the audience. Unfortunately it was the other two plays performed on that night (Universal Language and The Exam) which were chosen to enter the Area Final for the All England Festival of One Act Plays but we didn't go away empty handed. Steve Palmer won the Best Actor's Cup and we also won the cup for Best Stage Presentation which was just reward to Chris and his team for all their efforts. Riding high on this success, Chris has persuaded his cast and motley crew to repeat their efforts at the recently revived Festival in Reading on Saturday 19 July 2003. Our play will be on the final night of the Festival when the adjudications and presentations will be made. Please come and support us particularly if you missed the performance at The Barn. We are hoping to arrange a coach to take supporters to Reading on 19 July 2003 so please contact June Brown on 01883 714460 as soon as possible so that tickets and spaces on the coach can be reserved.

We are now in final rehearsal for our production of Alphabetical Order by Michael Frayn (who also wrote Noises Off) and directed by Ken Nicholson. Details can be found in the handbill which accompanies this Newsletter. Our production runs from 14 to 17 May 2003 at 7.45 p.m. Amanda Ryan plays Lucy the disorganised Librarian of the Newspaper Office, Jo Saville plays Lesley, the keen new assistant eager to improve things and Guy Hudson plays John who switches his allegiances. We also welcome the return to The Barn Theatre of Wilf Berger as man of few words Arnold and new faces to our stage of Mike Rourke (Geoffrey) and Jim Tadd (Wally) both of whom may be familiar for their work with Miller Centre Players and Reigate Amateur Theatrical Society (RATS) respectively. We are particularly grateful to Jim Tadd who has stepped into his role very late in the day because two previous actors could not continue due to prior commitments. We are fortunate to have located Jim who played the same part with RATS last Spring when they presented Alphabetical Order at The Harlequin. To complete our cast, we have Deirdre Walker, a regular performer with Oxted Operatic who has "crossed the floor" so to speak to take the role of Nora. With all this talent, we can assure you of an excellent evening so please come along and bring your friends. Tickets from Ibbett Mosely. P.S. Old newspapers, timetables, telephone books etc. are still being collected so if you can help please contact June Brown.

In August our Young Players will be performing a play entitled Robin Hood and the Children of Sherwood on Saturday 25 August 2003 at 7.00 p.m. This is a play which has been especially written for them by David Rowan. They will have rehearsed their roles and assisted with the set and stage preparations and presentation during the previous week in a Workshop at the Theatre run by David whom we have invited back for his fourth season with us. Tickets are £4.00 and handbills will be distributed with the August copy of The Barn Theatre News. Please note the date in your diaries for an entertaining evening suitable for young and old alike.

Finally, The Oxted Players would like to join in the many tributes arising from the sad loss of Des Groves, Pat Rolph and Stan Brown and send our our heartfelt condolences to their families.

PB

Coming soon, on Thursday 29th May at 8pm is the AGM of the Barn Following the traditional meeting there is a reception to which all are invited